

SPIDER-MAN[®] UNMASKED

MARVEL[®]
13 .com

Friendly Neighborhood
SPIDER-MAN



KING!
MANLEY
MOUNTS

LAST MONTH IN *Friendly Neighborhood* **SPIDER-MAN**



Through the manipulations of Mysterio, Midtown High has been transformed into a massive Haunted House! Now, Spider-Man--along with the school's principal--finds himself caught between a literal rock and a hard place: Two Mysterios, both purporting to be the one-and-only, and there's clearly no love lost between them.

Meanwhile, Flash Thompson has been endeavoring to get a small group of students to safety, only to become separated from Miss Arrow, the school nurse.

Miss Arrow, in turn, finds herself confronting yet another Mysterio, this one claiming to be the original Master of Illusion, a.k.a. Quentin Beck, who supposedly died from a self-inflicted gunshot wound. To prove his identity, he removed his helmet--revealing a very dead Beck with half his head shot off!

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"...NOT TO MENTION
OUR FRIENDLY
NEIGHBORHOOD
SPIDER-MAN."

DO YOU
HAVE ANY IDEA
HOW RIDICULOUS
YOU LOOK IN
THAT OUTFIT?

YOU'RE
THE ONE
WHO IS CLEARLY
ABSURDLY
ATTIRED!

OKAY,
THIS IS JUST
SO DRENCHED
IN IRONY, I DON'T
EVEN KNOW WHERE
TO BEGIN.

I HATE A MYSTERY

CONCLUSION

PETER
DAVID

TODD
NAUCK

ROBERT
CAMANELLA

LEE
LOUGHRIDGE

VC'S CORY
PETIT

MICHAEL
O'CONNOR

AXEL
ALONSO

JOE
QUESADA

DAN
BUCKLEY

WRITER

PENCILER

INKER

COLORIST

LETTERER

ASSISTANT EDITOR

EDITOR

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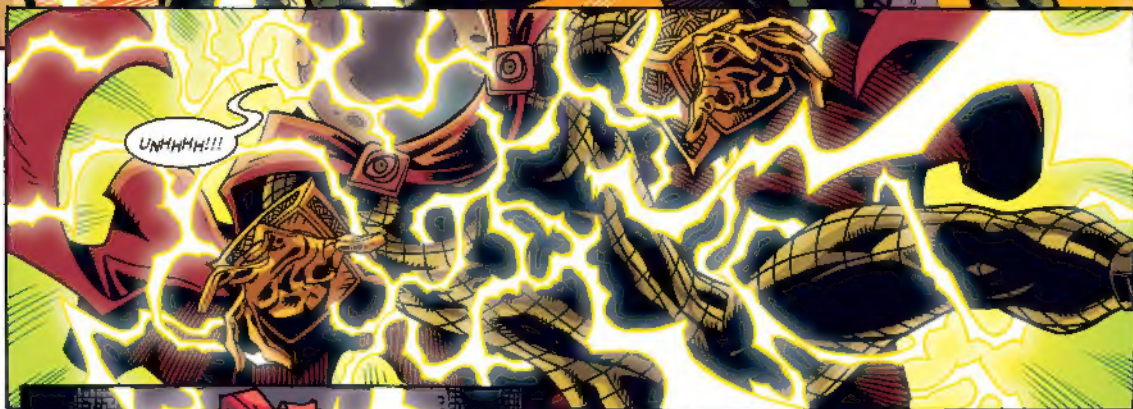






ANYTHING...
YOU...CAN THROW
AT ME...

...I...CAN
COUNTER!



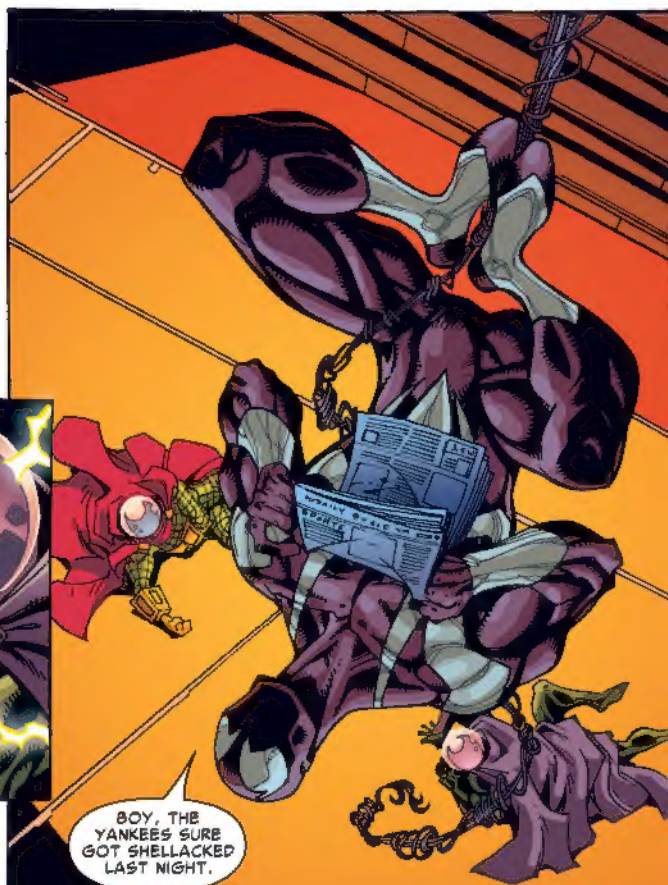
UNHHH!!!



A...A
NICE TRICK...
BUT IT WON'T
SAVE YOU...



YOU'RE
THE ONE...
WHO'LL NEED
SAVING...



BOY, THE
YANKEES SURE
GOT SHELLACKED
LAST NIGHT.



IT'S...IT'S A TRICK! SOME KIND OF---

I...I MEAN, THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE ALL ABOUT, RIGHT? TRICKS AND ILLUSIONS...

YOU'RE... YOU'RE TRYING TO TELL ME YOU'RE... DEAD?

NO TRICK. NO ILLUSION.



I PREFER TO THINK OF IT AS AN "AGING ALTERNATIVE."

BUT THE UNIVERSE DESPISES WASTE, MISS ARROW. SIMPLY BECAUSE I WAS DONE WITH LIFE...

...AS IT TURNS OUT, LIFE WASN'T DONE WITH ME.



OR "AFTER-LIFE," MORE PROPERLY. AFTER ALL, WE ALL KNOW WHERE SUICIDES WIND UP. AND AS IT TURNS OUT...

...THERE WERE CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS WHO FELT THAT I COULD SERVE THEIR NEEDS. WE ALL DO OUR PARTS IN THE COSMIC SCHEME OF THINGS, DON'T WE?

BUT THEN, I DON'T HAVE TO TELL YOU THAT.



I...I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT. YOU'RE CRAZY!



IS THAT YOUR STORY? ARE YOU STICKING TO IT?

YOU LIKE TO PLAY GAMES, THEN. VERY WELL...

I'VE ALWAYS LIKED GAMES.



LET'S PLAY "ASHES, ASHES, WE ALL FALL DOWN."

EVERYTHING HAPPENS IN ITS PROPER TIME, MISS ARROW. THAT'S WHY SUICIDES ARE SO COSMICALLY DETESTED. GOD DESPISES PEOPLE WHO KILL THEMSELVES; IT'S A PLEASURE HE PREFERS TO RESERVE FOR HIMSELF.

HE HATES IT WHEN OTHERS GET IN ON THE FUN.

STILL, WE ALL HAVE OUR PARTS TO PLAY, I SUPPOSE. I PLAY FOR MY NEW SIDE... AND YOU FOR YOURS. AND BOTH HAVE A GREAT INTEREST IN THE PROCEEDINGS.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE--

--TALKING ABOUT. YES, YES, YOU ALREADY SAID THAT.



DO YOU SERIOUSLY THINK YOU CAN FOOL THE MASTER OF ILLUSION?

THEN AGAIN, WHY SHOULDN'T YOU? THE WORLD IS FILLED WITH SELF-DELUDED INDIVIDUALS.

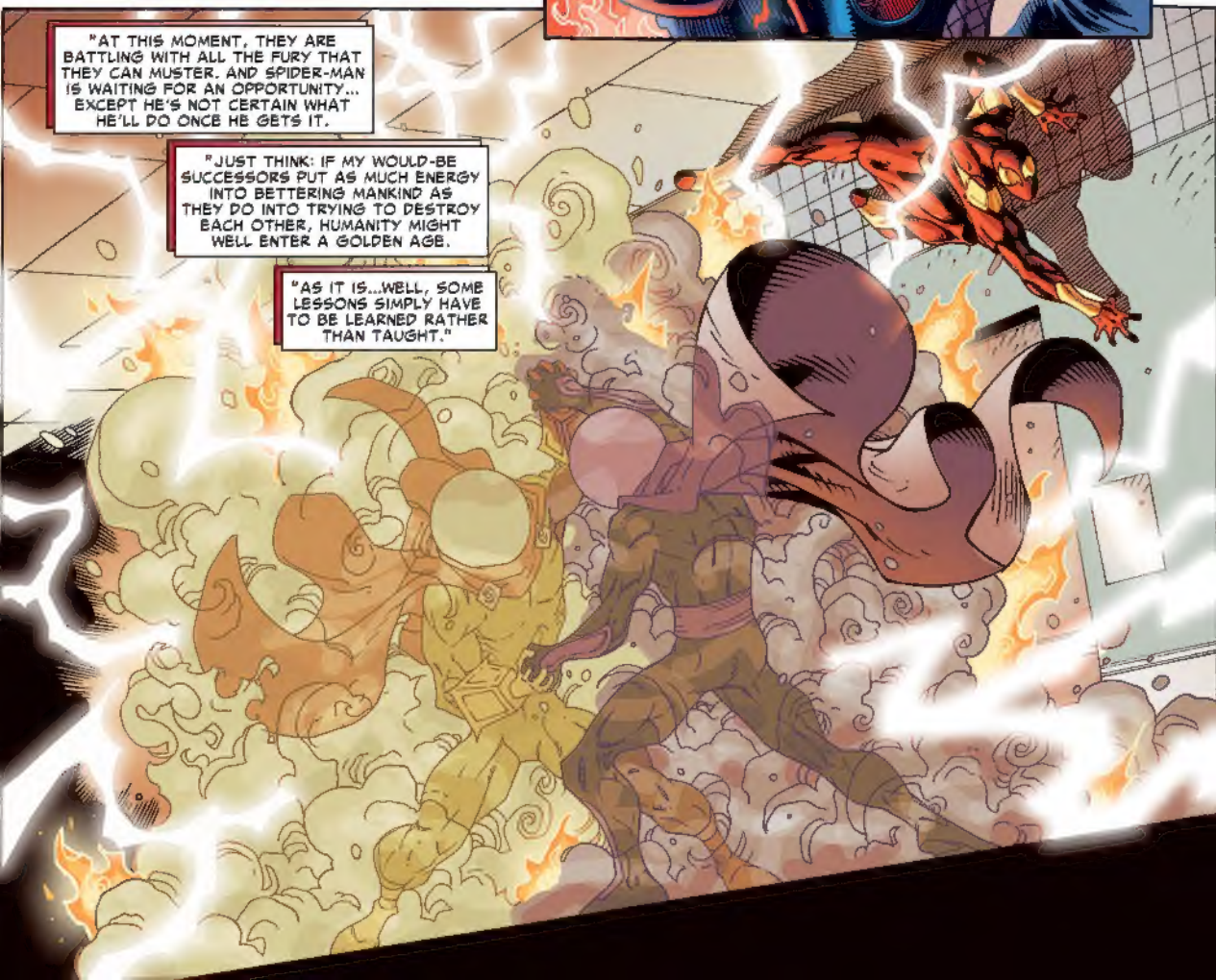
CONSIDER, FOR INSTANCE, MY TWO "HEIRS."



"AT THIS MOMENT, THEY ARE BATTLING WITH ALL THE FURY THAT THEY CAN MUSTER. AND SPIDER-MAN IS WAITING FOR AN OPPORTUNITY... EXCEPT HE'S NOT CERTAIN WHAT HE'LL DO ONCE HE GETS IT."

"JUST THINK: IF MY WOULD-BE SUCCESSORS PUT AS MUCH ENERGY INTO BETTERING MANKIND AS THEY DO INTO TRYING TO DESTROY EACH OTHER, HUMANITY MIGHT WELL ENTER A GOLDEN AGE."

"AS IT IS...WELL, SOME LESSONS SIMPLY HAVE TO BE LEARNED RATHER THAN TAUGHT."





YOU GAVE IT A GOOD EFFORT, KLUM. YOU HAVE A GREAT DEAL OF NATURAL SKILL.

IF I THOUGHT I COULD TRUST YOU, YOU MIGHT EVEN HAVE MADE A WORTHY APPRENTICE.

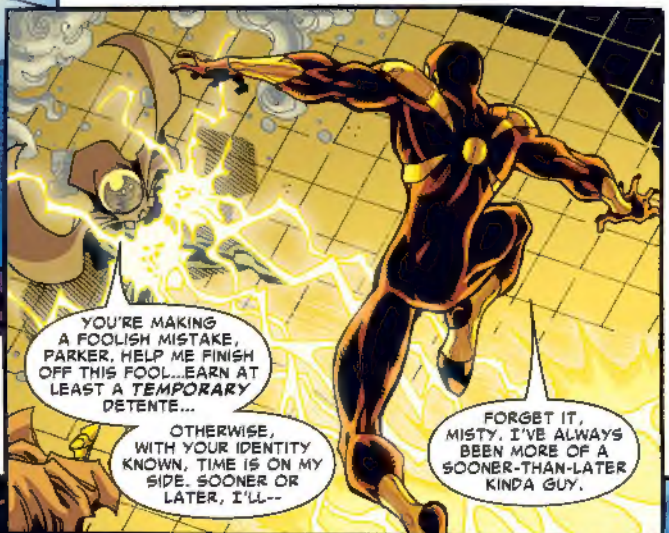
WHAT--?

THWIPP

MULTIPLE MYSTERIOS IS BAD ENOUGH. NOW WE'RE GONNA HAVE A BUNCH OF DONALD TRUMPS? I DON'T THINK SO.



AND I DON'T THINK YOU REMEMBER THAT I CAN DISSOLVE YOUR WEBBING AT WILL.



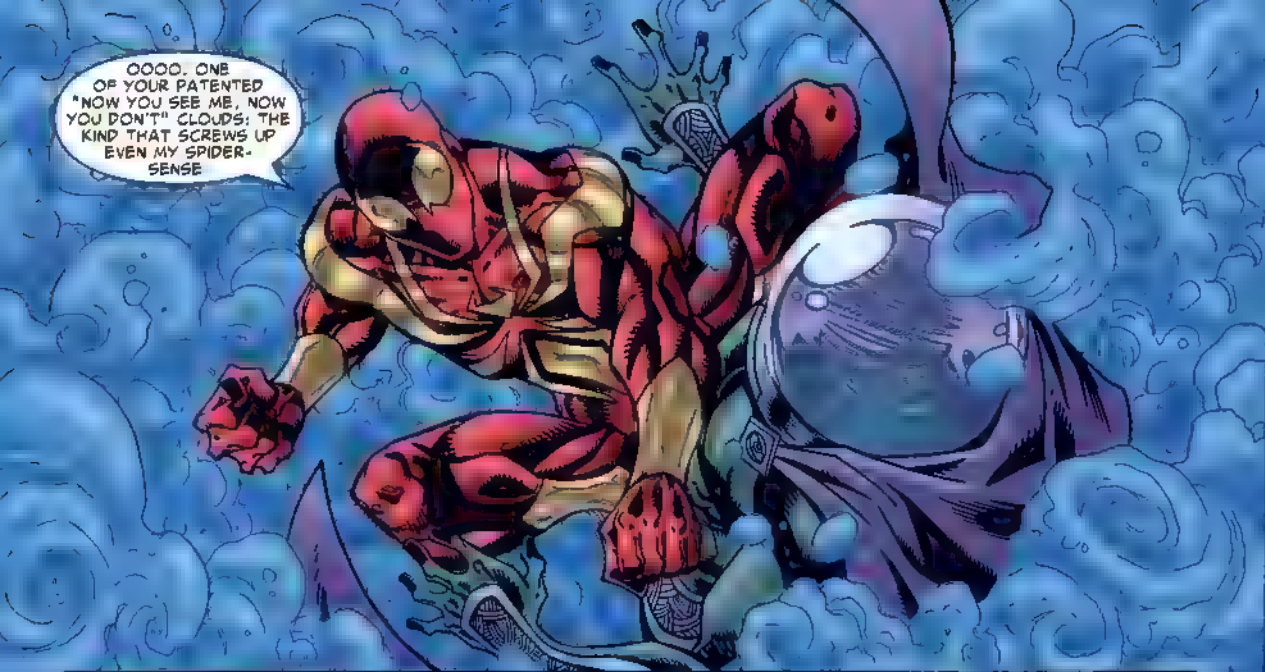
YOU'RE MAKING A FOOLISH MISTAKE, PARKER. HELP ME FINISH OFF THIS FOOL...EARN AT LEAST A TEMPORARY DETENTE...

OTHERWISE, WITH YOUR IDENTITY KNOWN, TIME IS ON MY SIDE. SOONER OR LATER, I'LL--

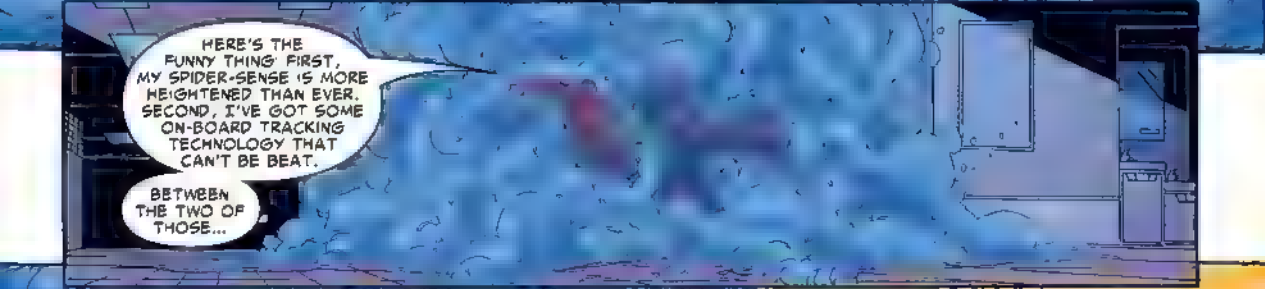
FORGET IT, MISTY. I'VE ALWAYS BEEN MORE OF A SOONER-THAN-LATER KINDA GUY.

SO HOW ABOUT I CLEAN YOUR CLOCK SOONER AND LET LATER SORT ITSELF OUT?





OOOO. ONE
OF YOUR PATENTED
"NOW YOU SEE ME, NOW
YOU DON'T" CLOUDS: THE
KIND THAT SCREWS UP
EVEN MY SPIDER-
SENSE



HERE'S THE
FUNNY THING: FIRST,
MY SPIDER-SENSE IS MORE
HEIGHTENED THAN EVER.
SECOND, I'VE GOT SOME
ON-BOARD TRACKING
TECHNOLOGY THAT
CAN'T BE BEAT.

BETWEEN
THE TWO OF
THOSE...



WAAAM

...THINGS
HAVE
CHANGED.



UNNFFF!



SEE, I FIGURE IF YOU'RE TOUGH ENOUGH TO TAKE OUT YOUR RIVAL...THEN YOU'RE THE ONE I SHOULD BE WORRYING ABOUT.

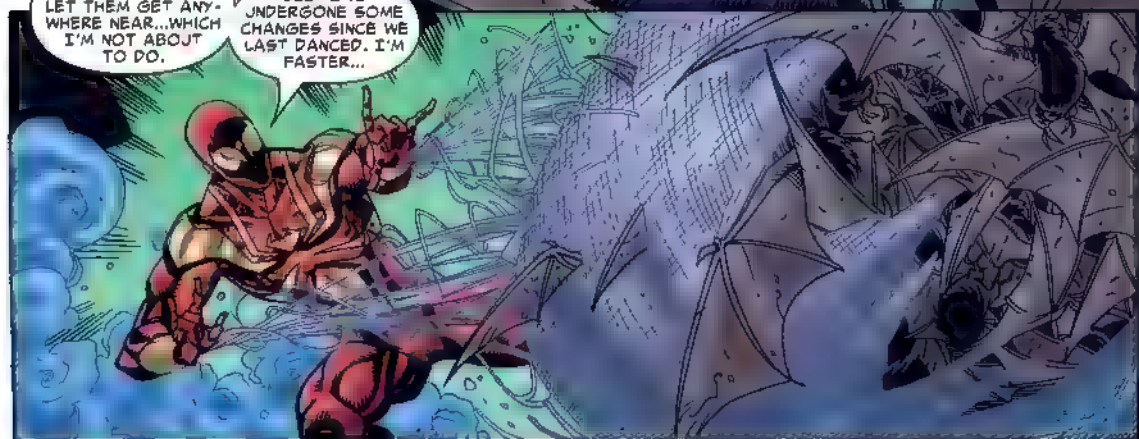


YOU THOUGHT CORRECTLY.

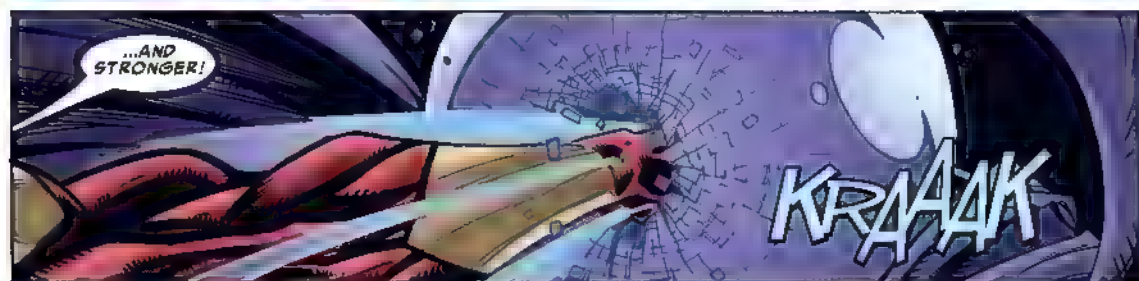
MY LITTLE FRIENDS ARE POISONED, SPIDER-MAN: THE SLIGHTEST SCRATCH--

--WOULD BE REALLY NASTY IF I LET THEM GET ANYWHERE NEAR...WHICH I'M NOT ABOUT TO DO.

SEE I'VE UNDERGONE SOME CHANGES SINCE WE LAST DANCED. I'M FASTER...



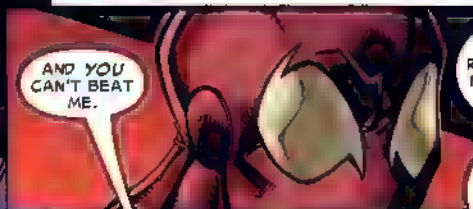
...AND STRONGER!



KRAAKK



ILLUSIONS
ARE GREAT AND ALL,
BUT YOU CAN'T BEAT
REAL LIFE.



AND YOU
CAN'T BEAT
ME.

NOR COULD
THAT FOOL. BUT I
REALIZED THERE WAS
NO POINT EXPENDING
ENERGY AGAINST
HIM.

I SIMPLY
ALLOWED HIM TO
THINK HE HAD ME ON
THE ROPES, KNOWING
THAT YOU'D STEP IN
TO DEFEAT HIM
FOR ME.

YOUR
PATHETIC INTEREST
IN HELPING THOSE "IN
NEED" IS JUST THAT
PREDICTABLE...EVEN
WHEN SOMEONE
DOESN'T NEED YOUR
HELP.



I JUST
NEED YOU
DEAD

IT'S WHAT
YOU DESERVE FOR
WHAT YOU DID TO
MY BROTHER.

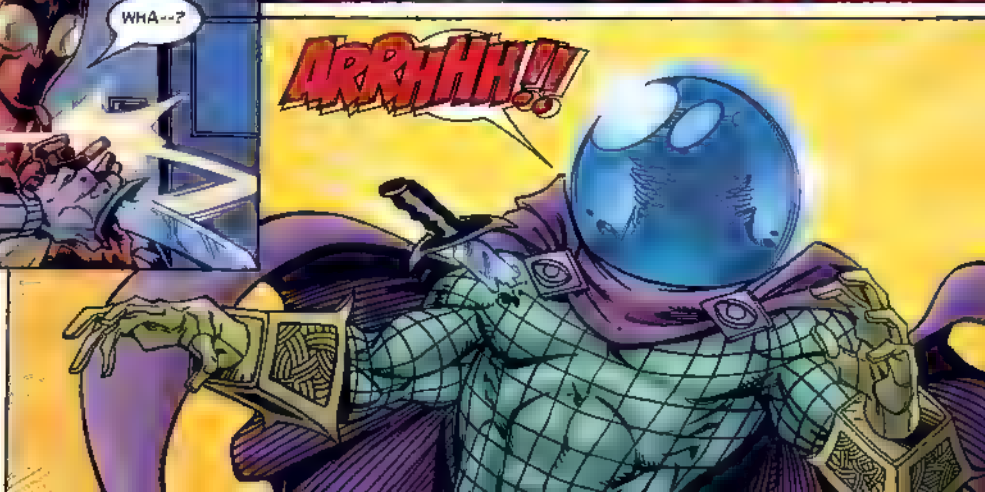
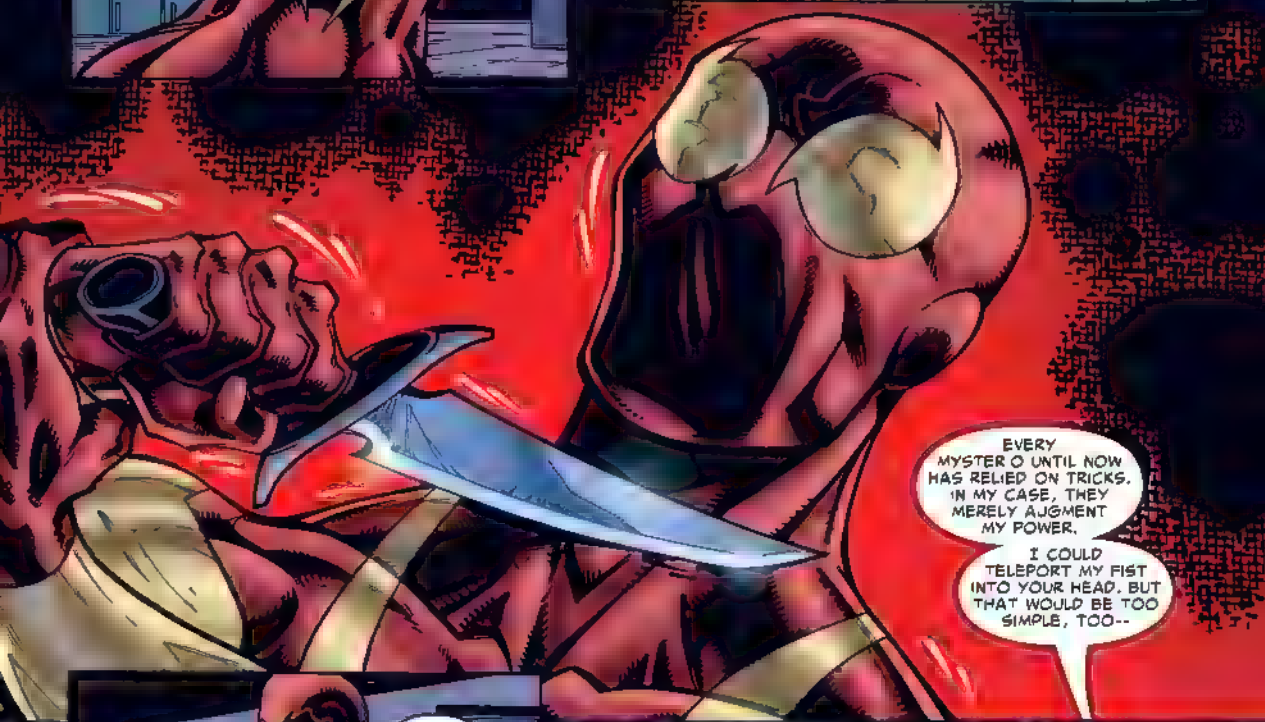
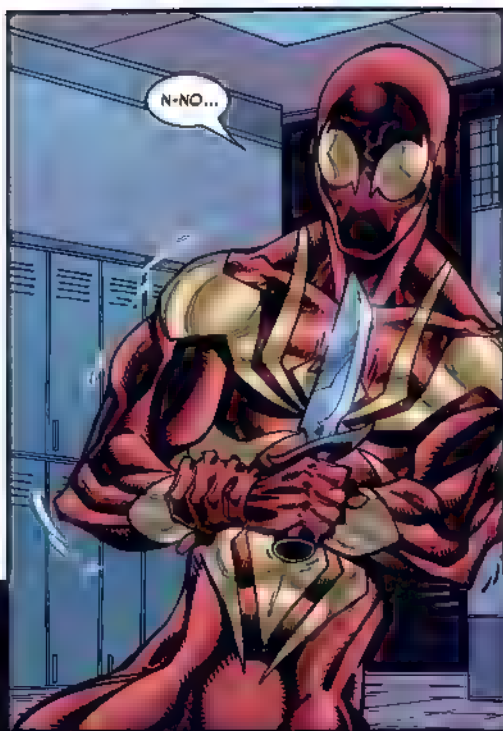
YOU THINK
I'M JUST GONNA
STAND HERE AND
LET YOU STAB
ME?

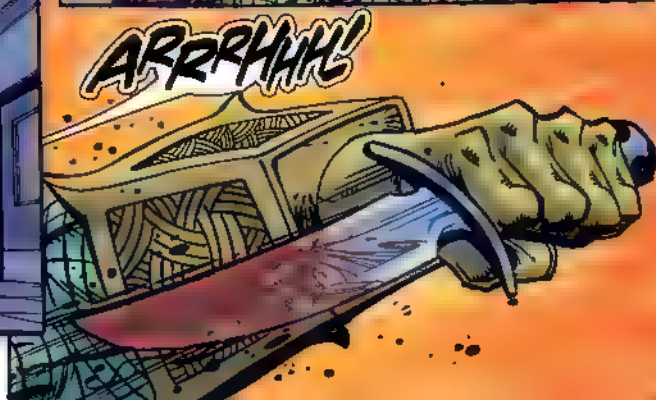
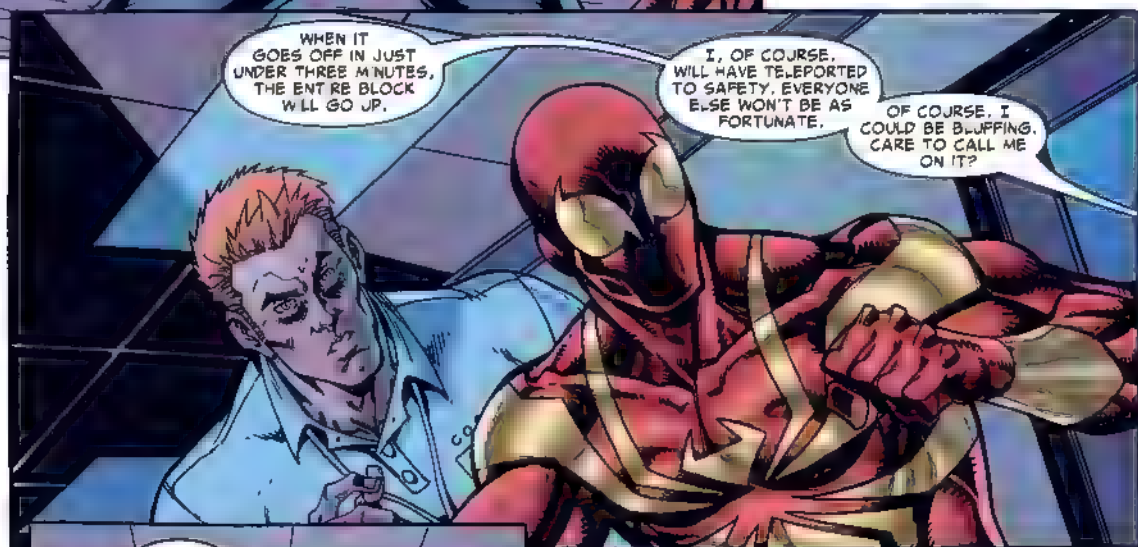


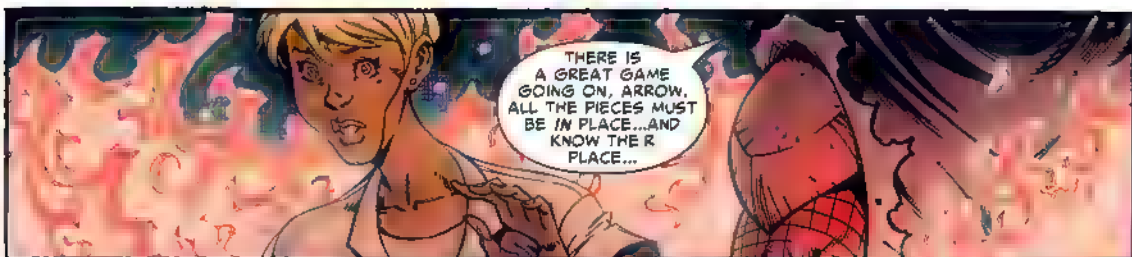
NOT AT
ALL. I THINK
YOU'RE GOING
TO PICK IT
UP..



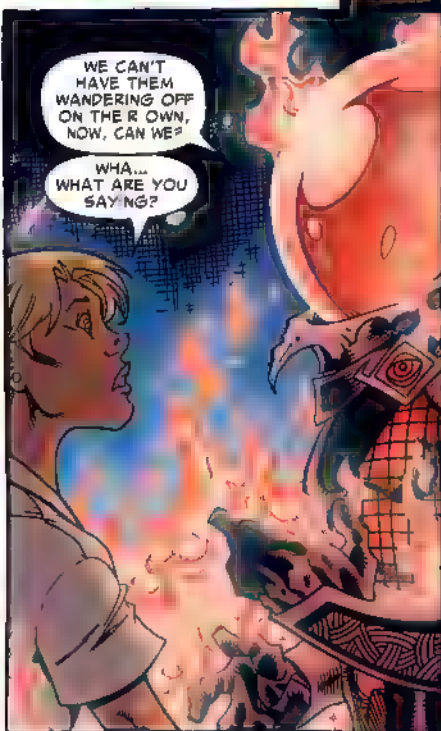
AND KILL
YOURSELF
WITH IT.
RIGHT
NOW.





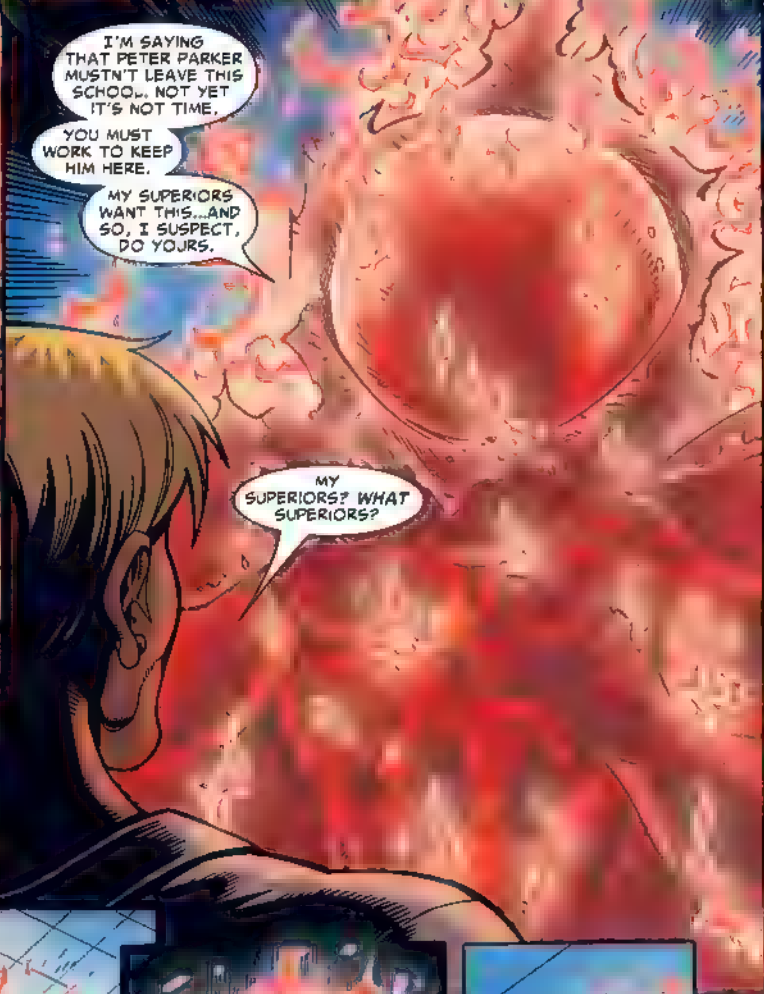


THERE IS
A GREAT GAME
GOING ON, ARROW.
ALL THE PIECES MUST
BE IN PLACE...AND
KNOW THE R
PLACE...



WE CAN'T
HAVE THEM
WANDERING OFF
ON THEIR OWN.
NOW, CAN WE?

WHA...
WHAT ARE YOU
SAYING?



I'M SAYING
THAT PETER PARKER
MUSTN'T LEAVE THIS
SCHOOL. NOT YET
IT'S NOT TIME.

YOU MUST
WORK TO KEEP
HIM HERE.

MY SUPERIORS
WANT THIS...AND
SO, I SUSPECT,
DO YOURS.

MY
SUPERIORS? WHAT
SUPERIORS?



IF YOU WISH
TO CONTINUE THE
CHARADE, GO AHEAD.
WHAT IS ONE SMALL
GAME, I SUPPOSE, IN
THE MIDST OF THE
MUCH LARGER ONE
BEING PLAYED?

KEEP HIM
AT THE SCHOOL..
PLAY YOUR PART,
SO HE CAN PLAY
HIS...



AND I
MINE...





PETE--!

CAN I
Y'KNOW...CALL YOU
PETE? OR SHOULD IT
BE SPIDEY? OR...

FLASH, YOU
SAVED MY BUTT BACK
THERE. MYSTERIO HAD
ME ON THE ROPES. YOU
CAN CALL ME HARVEY
THE WONDER HAMSTER
IF YOU WANT.



WATCH YOUR
BACK, THOUGH, MYSTERIO
WAS SO FOCUSED ON ME
THAT YOU CAUGHT HIM OFF
GUARD. YOU WON'T GET
THAT LUCKY AGAIN.

I'M NOT
AFRAID OF OL'
BUBBLEHEAD.

THAT'S YOUR
FIRST MISTAKE.
DON'T MAKE IT
YOUR LAST.



AFTER I GET
THIS SQUARED AWAY,
WE GOTTA FIND THE
KIDS.

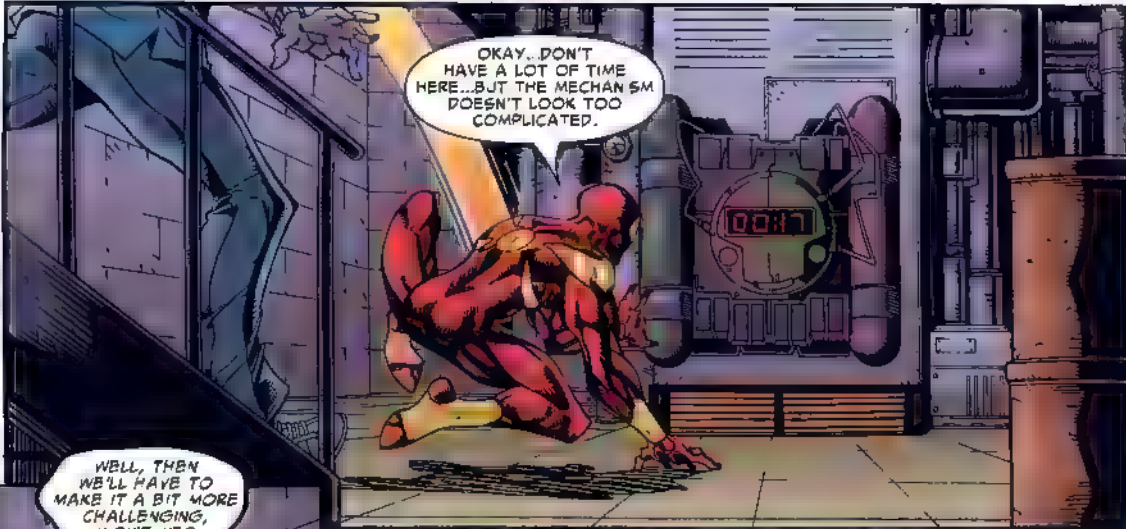
THEY'RE SAFE
I GOT 'EM OUT OF
THE SCHOOL.

REALLY? WOW,
BETWEEN THAT AND
BAILING ME OUT, YOU'RE
HAVING A GREAT DAY.
HEY, JH, SORRY ABOUT
REARRANGING YOUR
FACE EARLIER.




DON'T
SWEAT IT. I
PROBABLY HAD
IT COMING.

NO "PROBABLY"
ABOUT IT STILL...
I'M SORRY.

Iron Man is in a room with industrial equipment. A large bomb is visible in the background with a digital display showing '00:17'. Iron Man is crouching down, looking at the bomb.


OKAY... DON'T
HAVE A LOT OF TIME
HERE... BUT THE MECHANISM
DOESN'T LOOK TOO
COMPLICATED.

A close-up of Iron Man's helmeted head, looking towards the right.

WELL, THEN
WE'LL HAVE TO
MAKE IT A BIT MORE
CHALLENGING,
WON'T WE?

A man in a blue shirt and dark pants is falling backwards through the air. He has a shocked expression on his face.

WHA...?

A close-up of the man's face as he falls. He looks terrified and is holding his hand to his face.


IT'LL TAKE YOU
ONLY A FEW SECONDS TO
JUMP UP AND CUT HIM DOWN...
BUT YOU'LL NEED THAT TIME TO
DEPUSE THE BOMB. MEANTIME,
I'LL HAVE MY REVENGE ON
YOUR KNIFE-THROWING
FRIEND.

A close-up of Iron Man's helmeted head, looking towards the right.

F-forget
m-uh...uh...

Iron Man is shown from the waist up, using his repulsor to cut the man who is still falling. The sound effect 'THWIP' is written in a stylized font.

THWIP

A close-up of Iron Man's helmeted head, looking towards the right.

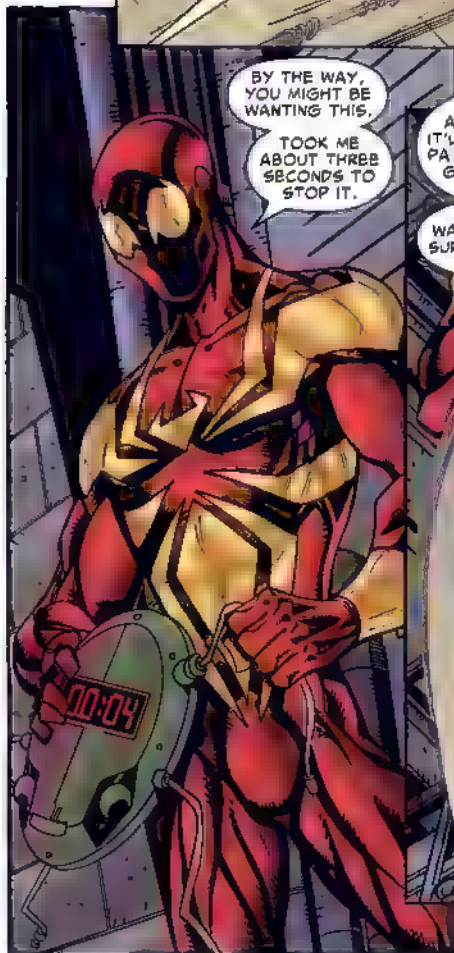
AH, SO YOU
LEAVE HIM TO DIE.
A WISE, IF TRAGIC,
CHOICE.



I'LL SAY
THAT FOR ALL YOU
FREAKIN' MYSTERIOS...



YOU JUST
DON'T KNOW WHEN
TO SHUT UP.



BY THE WAY,
YOU MIGHT BE
WANTING THIS.

TOOK ME
ABOUT THREE
SECONDS TO
STOP IT.



AND THAT'S
ABOUT HOW LONG
IT'LL TAKE ME TO PUT
PAID TO YOU, ONCE I
GET MY HANDS ON
YOU.

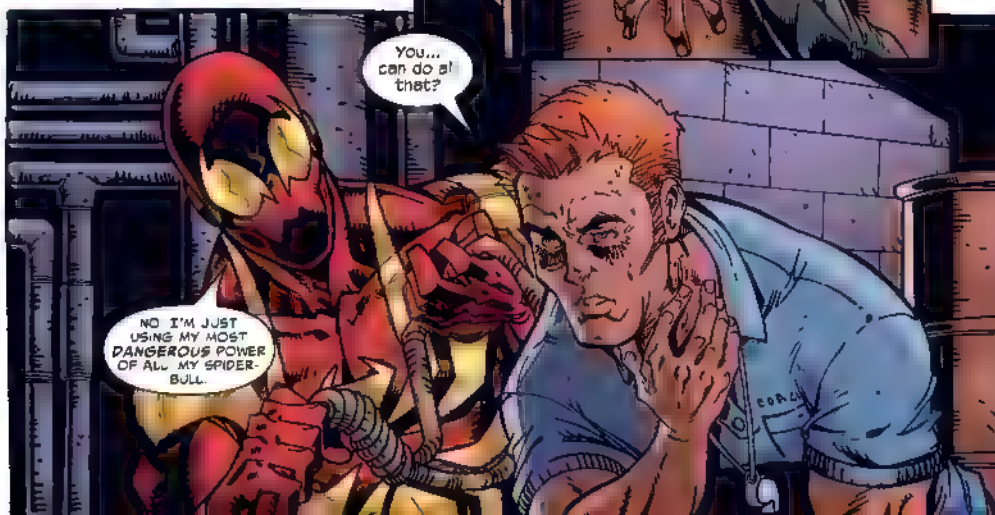
YOU MIGHT
WANT TO CONSIDER
SURRENDERING NOW,
FRANCIS



NOW THAT I
KNOW IT'S YOU, I'VE
SET CYBERNETIC
SCRAMBLING CIRCUITRY
IN MY COSTUME THAT'LL
BLOCK YOUR MENTAL
COMMANDS

AND YOUR
ATTEMPTS TO AMBUSH
ME VIA TELEPORTATION
WON'T WORK, BECAUSE MY
HEIGHTENED SPIDER-SENSE
AND ON-BOARD TRACKING
SENSORS WILL
WARN ME.

IF YOU'RE
SMART, YOU'LL GIVE
UP NOW.



You...
can do all
that?

NO I'M JUST
USING MY MOST
DANGEROUS POWER
OF ALL MY SPIDER-
BULL.



"GIVE UP NOW," SMUG, ARROGANT FOOL.

THIS GAME IS BARELY BEGUN.



HE THINKS HIS SPIDER-SENSE WILL SAVE HIM?

NOTHING WILL SAVE HIM, NOT IN--



WELL, WELL. WHAT HAVE WE HERE?



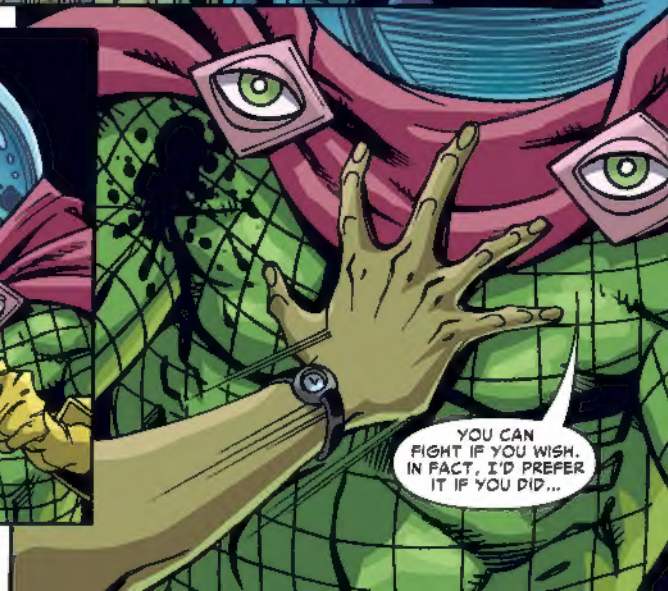
YOU...YOU KEEP AWAY FROM ME.

WOULD THAT I COULD, MY DEAR.



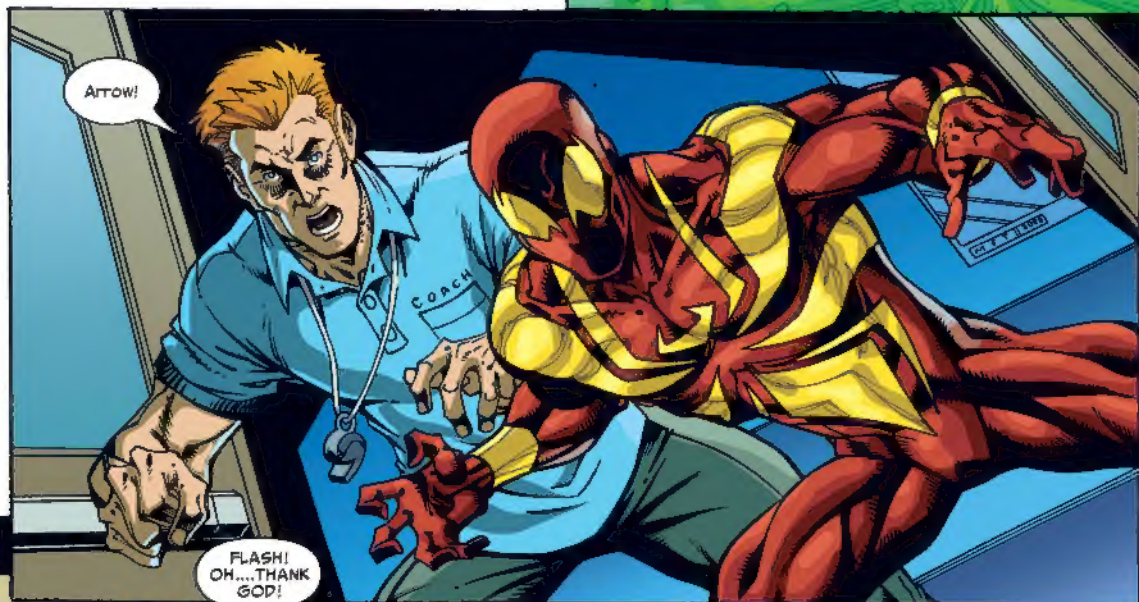
BUT YOU'RE ABOUT TO BECOME A PAWN IN A MUCH LARGER GAME.

NO! LET GO!



YOU CAN FIGHT IF YOU WISH. IN FACT, I'D PREFER IT IF YOU DID...





"...LET'S MAKE SURE
THEY'RE OKAY."

ARE
THEY...?

THEY'RE
JUST UNCONSCIOUS.
MY ON-BOARD OXYGEN
SYSTEM IS PROTECTING
ME FROM THE MIST...AND
IT'S STARTING TO
DISSIPATE ANYWAY.

